

SUMMER USE OF THE MANURE SPREADER.

There are a great many implements on the farm that can be used but a few days or, at most, a week in a year, like the harvester or the corn planter, while there are other implements that can and should be used at intervals the year round. The manure spreader is an example of this last named class and we believe that it will pay every farmer who owns a manure spreader to keep the same in use at every opportunity, especially in the summer. Assuredly every owner of a manure spreader realizes its superiority over the fork in spreading manure, in making the handling of manure more rapid and less disagreeable and in making it possible to distribute the labor of getting manure to the fields throughout the year. We doubt, however, if all farmers who own manure spreaders make as much of this last-named advantage as they should. By allowing a spreader to stand idle in the shed when there is manure to be hauled out certainly puts the manure spreader in the same class with those machines which, though necessary on the farm, are in the nature of luxuries.

There are ever so many reasons why the manure spreader should be kept busy at intervals all summer. As a primary reason we would say to get the most good out of the manure. Every day that manure remains in piles or about the yards it loses a part of its value, due chiefly to two things, namely, fermentation, in which case nitrogen is lost, and leaching, in which case valuable salts are washed out. In horse and hog stable manure the loss, of course, is greatest, while in the case of manure that is found under the cover of stock sheds the loss is the least. We believe that by keeping the manure from accumulating and wasting in the ways mentioned a manure spreader can be made to pay for itself in a couple of seasons on the average farm.

We realize that so long as there appears to be no change in the material appearance of manure after standing in piles for some time, some men are going to doubt the loss which is gen-

erally calculated in such cases. It should be remembered, however, that the part of manure which is viewed by the eye, namely, straw, stalks and other coarse matter, is merely a carrier for the real value of, we might say, the essence of the same. The carrier is valuable only for its effect on the physical condition of the soil. As a part of manure it is also a trifle more advanced in decomposition. The nitrogen, potash and phosphorus for which manure is largely valuable are hidden in the manure pile just as common salt, for example, is unobservable when it is in brine.

The part the manure spreader plays when used to remove manure as fast as a load or two accumulates, in improving sanitation around buildings and farm premises, is not to be overlooked. First, it aids in bettering the condition of the atmosphere around the stables and even around the farm dwellings, and it is needless to say that bad air is harmful to animals as well as to human beings. Next, by keeping all accumulations of manure regularly removed reduces the number of flies about the premises in a great measure, as manure piles furnish an ideal place for fly eggs to hatch and come through the maggot state of maturity. If you don't believe it, remove with a fork the surface of a pile of horse stable manure keeping your eye open for thick white worms, which are the maggots mentioned. They will often be found in manure which has not been removed from the horse stalls for several days. The smaller the accumulations of manure around the premises, especially horse manure, therefore, the fewer the chances for flies to breed. While, of course, it is impossible to prevent some eggs from hatching, the number

that will hatch can be reduced to a minimum. We believe this fact in connection with those already mentioned is strong argument in favor of keeping the manure spreader in commission the season through.

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R. P. Schwenir, the admiral of the Pacific mail, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1879, and was in the navy for many years.—The Post.

We have always heard that the cow that bawls the loudest is the first to forget her calf.

If you want to kill your conscience, begin making excuses, if you want to put it to sleep just lie to it a few times. These anesthetics never fail.

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